

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Device for transferring or threading ~~beginnings~~ of a band, ~~especially of extremely thin bands, from a band machining or band processing unit to a or into a further processing unit or winding reel, consisting of a said thin strips into strip head ends from a strip machining or processing facility to or into a further treatment facility or winding drum comprising:~~

~~a transfer table (1), whose width corresponds at least to the width of the band to be conveyed, and whose table surface has a lengthwise slot (8) in the conveying direction of the band, which is narrower than the minimum width of a band to be conveyed, by means of which the upper run of a said conveyor belt (7) running in the conveying direction of the band can be pivoted over the surface of the transfer table and to which the band to be conveyed can be connected by external force for a while the width of which is at least equal to the width of said thin strip, and the surface of which table defines a lengthwise slot in the direction of movement of said thin strip, which slot is narrower than the minimum width of said thin strip, and through which slot the upper belt of a conveyor, that is circulating in the direction of movement of said thin strip, can be swivelled out across the surface of the transfer table wherein said thin strip is frictionally connected intermittently to said surface.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A device ~~device~~ in accordance with claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
magnets are positioned underneath said upper belt of said conveyor  
[[,]] which pull the ~~band~~ thin strip to be conveyed against the top side surface of  
the upper belt thereby to frictionally connect intermittently the strip to said top surface.

3. (Currently Amended) A device ~~device~~ in accordance with claim 2,  
wherein said ~~characterized in that~~ the magnets are electromagnets.

4. (Currently Amended) A device ~~device~~ in accordance with claim 1,  
wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the said conveyor belt (7) is ~~provided with holes~~  
perforated, and wherein ~~that~~ suction nozzles are positioned underneath an upper  
belt[[,]] which pull the thin strip against the top surface of said upper belt ~~band to be~~  
~~conveyed against the top side of the upper run, are arranged under the upper run.~~

5. (New Claim) A device for transferring or threading thin strips comprising a  
transfer table having a width that is at least equal to the width of a thin strip, and a  
surface that defines a slot along the direction of movement of said thin strip;

said slot (i) having a width that is less than a minimum width of said thin strip,  
and (ii) accepting an upper belt of a conveyor that is circulating in the direction of  
movement of said thin strip, said upper belt being arranged so as to be swivelled out  
across said surface; wherein a magnetic field acting through said surface causes said  
thin strip to be intermittently frictionally engaged with said surface.

6. (New Claim) A device for transferring or threading thin strips comprising a transfer table having a width that is at least equal to the width of a thin strip, and a surface that defines a slot along the direction of movement of said thin strip;

said slot (i) having a width that is less than a minimum width of said thin strip, and (ii) accepting an upper belt of a conveyor that is circulating in the direction of movement of said thin strip, said upper belt being arranged so as to be swivelled out across said surface; wherein a vacuum acting through an opening in said surface causes said thin strip to be intermittently frictionally engaged with said surface.